

Serial No. 10/643,107

Docket No. – ITW 0003 PA/13247

Remarks

Claims 1-45 were pending. Claims 2, 5, 9, 12, 14-19, 28, 31-32, 35-36, and 42 have been amended, and claims 1, 10-11, 13, 22-27, and 29-30 have been canceled. As a result of this amendment, claims 2-9, 12, 14-21, 28, and 31-45 are pending. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants confirm the election of the species of Figs. 4-11. Claims 2-9, 12, 14-21, 28, and 31-45 read on Figs. 4-11.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claim 41. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's statement that claims 14-18, 32-34, and 36-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14, 32, and 36 have been rewritten in independent form. All of the claims depend from one of these claims, either directly or indirectly.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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